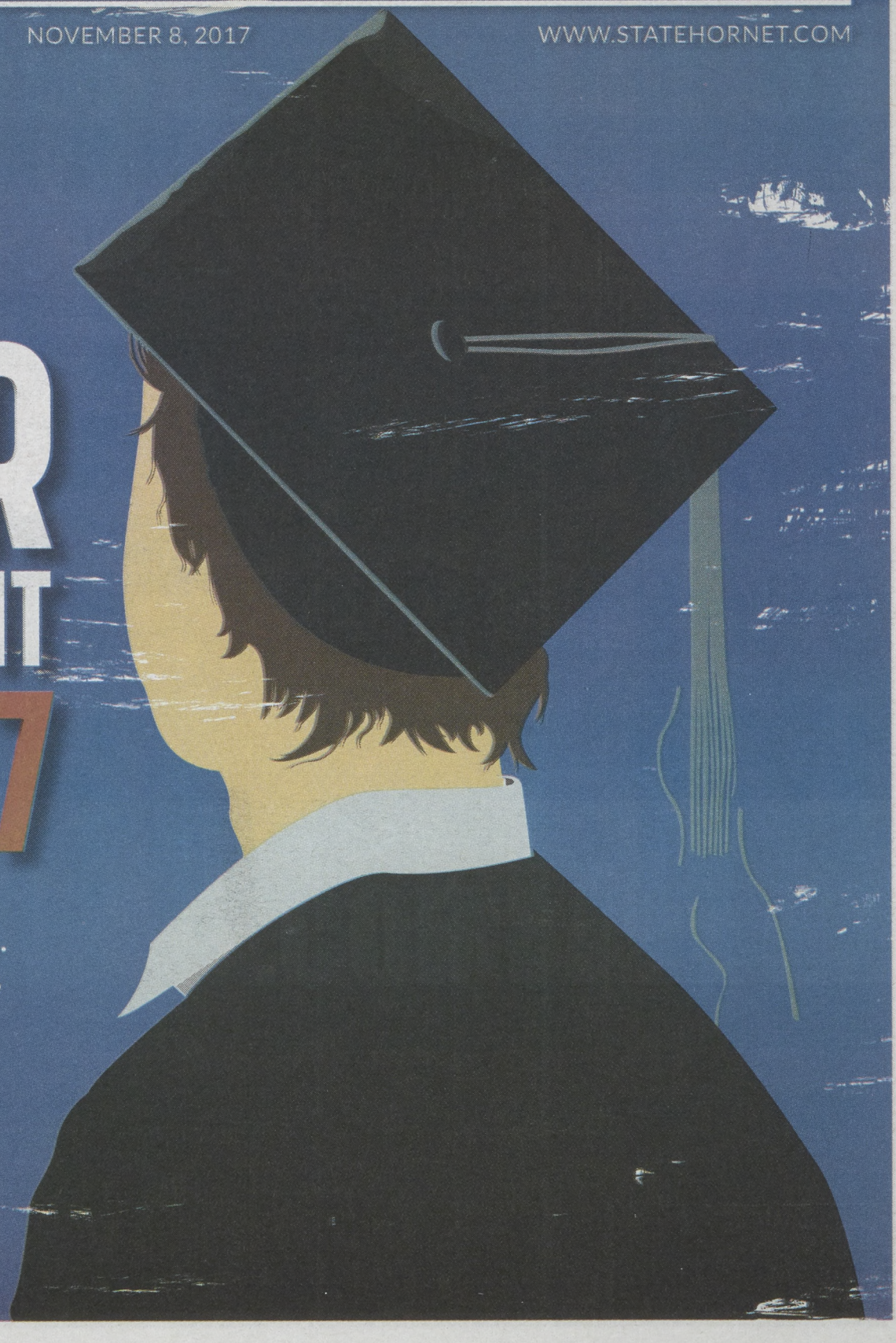
The STATE HORNET

The voice of Sacramento State since 1949

ISSUE 11, VOLUME 72 NOVEMBER 8, 2017 WWW.STATEHORNET.COM

# WINTER COMMENCEMENT 1967-2017



Sacramento State's upcoming winter commencement ceremony will be the last. Read more about the decision, why it was made and how it will impact spring.

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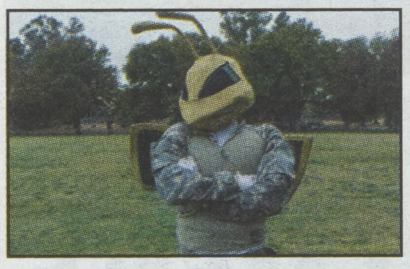
## FEATURED SOCIAL MEDIA



The geology department got into the Halloween spirit on Oct. 31 by staging a plastic animatronic Tyrannosaurus rex and baby dinosaur sculptures outside of Placer and Mendocino halls. The purpose was to encourage students to sign up for paleontology classes in the spring.



The State Hornet's opinion and news editors went head-to-head in a video debate on why some people put so much effort into Halloween, while others couldn't care less about it. Go to YouTube.com/StateHornet to watch this video and others.



The charismatic mascot, Herky the Hornet, was seen at the softball field Nov. 2 donning camouflage fatigues to promote the Military and Public Service Appreciation event, which took place at the football game the following Saturday where Sac State won 50-21 against University of Northern Colorado. Follow @StateHornet for similar photo features.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**STOLEN COMPUTERS:** On Oct. 20 at 9 a.m., it was reported to the Sacramento State Police Department that 35 laptops were missing from Calaveras 131. Sac State Chief of Police Mark Iwasa said that police are currently reviewing video from the night prior to the report, but he declined to comment on if any evidence was found. The room is a computer lab specifically for use by the English department, and classes have been temporarily moved. The State Hornet is continuing to report on this story.

**To stay up to date with news, go to statehornet.com/news**

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## CORRECTIONS

*In Volume 72, Issue 10 of The State Hornet, the following correction is listed:*

*On page 10, a men's soccer player is identified in a photo caption as Brad Bumgarner. In fact, it is Dennis Cole.*

***We regret this error.***

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**NICOLE FOWLER** - The State Hornet

Sacramento State will hold future commencements at the Golden 1 Center, pictured. Sac State is the last of the 10 largest CSU campuses to switch to holding only one ceremony.

# GOODBYE, WINTER COMMENCEMENT

## CITING MONEY CONCERNS, SAC STATE PULLS PLUG ON WINTER CEREMONIES

**Kameron Schmid**
*@kameronschmid*

Sacramento State's announcement last week that the upcoming 2017 winter commencement ceremony would be the last held, marking a permanent switch to spring-only graduations, could not be accurately described as well-received.

In a lengthy email from Sac State President Robert Nelsen, it was explained that the University is the last of the 10 largest CSUs to still hold a winter commencement and had made the "difficult" decision to cut the extra, less-attended ceremony.

Last spring's ceremony, the first of Sac State's held at the Golden 1 Center in downtown Sacramento, cost the university and its students $151,643 total, nearly three times more than the average price of graduation ceremonies previously held at Sleep Train Arena, which has been stripped of most of its internal equipment and is not currently fit to be used for public events.

Sac State was reported by both The State Hornet and The Sacramento Bee to have scrambled to pay around $50,000 more than it was prepared to, using a mix of student commencement fees and money from the University reserves.

Though Sac State spokesperson Craig Koscho said that commencements are designed to be paid for entirely by student fees, continuing to hold two ceremonies a year would have virtually guaranteed an increase in those fees.

Currently, the commencement fee for students is $76.50, an increase of $13 from the previous year. Before, the fee hadn't changed since 2009, according to Koscho who added that with the elimination of winter graduations, the University is "not anticipating an increase in fees at this point."

Both ceremonies last academic year cost Sac State $119,531 of reserve funds and $91,954 of student fees, an overall total of $211,485.

The total cost would have been higher by $50,000 had the city of Sacramento not designated all three days of the ceremony as "civic event days," of which the city has nine to use per year in an agreement with the Sacramen-

"So what about students who graduate in Fall of 2018 and move away right after school? We have to travel back in May to walk? Stupid. I guess I won't be walking at all, lol."

**- Kylie Smith**

*Sac State student on Facebook*

to Kings who operate the arena.

Koscho said that Golden 1 Center is the planned long-term venue for Sac State's graduation ceremonies, but the University does not know, as of now, whether Sacramento will continue to designate graduations as civic events, as the city is creating a formal application process for acquiring civic day designations.

"They will be accepting applications once that is completed," Koscho said. "We have no idea when that will be, but we will submit a request as soon as that is available."

A request for information sent to the city of Sacramento on what the process will entail or when it will be implemented was not returned as of press time.

Sacramento City Councilmember Steve Hansen, who represents District 4, the area of downtown including the Golden 1 Center, supported the move to make Sac State graduations civic events last semester, and he reiterated his support Tuesday via email.

It is unclear at the moment how much the two upcoming ceremonies this academic year will cost, according to Koscho.

"We really don't know how much it costs until after the ceremony," Koscho said.

Several complaints were brought up by students on social media after the announcement, including concern over fall graduates being feasibly able to attend six months after finishing their degree, increasing the already over-long runtime of the spring ceremonies by compacting both classes into one ceremony and the number of offered tickets continuing to shrink.

The most consistent student response to the announcement seemed to be that they felt it was unfair to those who graduate after future fall semesters and who may move away immediately, either back home or to wherever they can find a job.

Facebook user and Sac State finance major Kylie Smith received the most positive reactions of any commenter on the University's post announcing the change when she expressed her disappointment in the decision.

"So what about students who graduate in Fall of 2018 and move away right after school? We have to travel back in May to walk? Stupid. I guess I won't be walking at all lol," Smith wrote, in part.

"Certainly, it's a major inconvenience for those who are planning to graduate in December next year or years beyond that," Koscho said. "The fact is though, that in looking at the comparisons, commencement is designed to be paid solely through the commencement fees that each student pays. We anticipated that, by keeping the winter commencement, our fees would have had to go up more than we hoped."

Last winter, for the last commencement at Sleep Train Arena, graduates were offered twelve free tickets for guests. That number shrank to nine for the spring ceremony at the Golden 1 Center, and it is expected to shrink again when adding whichever fall graduates wait until spring to walk.

Four-thousand four-hundred fifty-nine students walked in the spring 2017 ceremony at Golden 1 Center, and 2,411 walked in the winter 2016 ceremony at Sleep Train Arena. Both arenas have capacities at slightly over 17,000.

Lacking a true events center with enough size, the University considered holding winter or spring commencements at Hornet Stadium last year but estimated that the cost of labor and maintenance would have exceeded $200,000 per ceremony, making it slightly cheaper to hold it at Golden 1 Center.

Other Sacramento venues like Cal Expo, Raley Field, the Sacramento Convention Center Complex and the Memorial Auditorium were deemed to hold too few seats for guests.

Sleep Train Arena may be usable again by 2019, as the city of Sacramento is attempting to convert it to a convention center on a temporary basis while the Sacramento Convention Center undergoes scheduled construction.

Sac State has been holding mid-year commencements for 50 years. Its first was in January 1967, reported in an archived Hornet article to be located in the "Men's Gymnasium." The article also said that up to 900 invited students were offered three free tickets each.

# By the numbers: Commencement

*Sacramento State commencement ceremonies are designed to be paid for entirely by student fees, but that didn't work out last year with the increased cost of renting the Golden 1 Center to host.*

## $211,485

**How much both commencement ceremonies cost in total last year. Of that, $91,954 was paid for with student fees and the remaining $119,531 came out of University reserves. The spring ceremony at Golden 1 Center cost $151,643 and the fall ceremony at Sleep Train Arena cost $59,842.**

## 6960

**The total amount of students who walked in either ceremony. 4549 students walked in the spring, and 2,411 walked in the fall.**

## 189

**The 'angry' reactions to Sac State's Facebook post announcing the decision to end winter commencement ceremonies after this year. The post, which was shared 186 times and commented on 224 times, also received 96 'likes,' 84 'wows,' 23 'sads,' three 'loves' and one 'haha.'**

# SAC STATE SAYS

*The announcement that Sacramento State had decided to end its winter commencement ceremonies — fifty years after holding its first — did not go over well with students on social media. We asked students, two graduating one month from now, how they felt about the decision. Tell us how you feel by using the hashtag* ***#SacStateSays*** *on any social media platform.*




**Kameron Schmid**
*@kameronschmid*

## #SacStateSays



"I'm both excited and sad. I get to participate ... I'm really sad that other fall classes can't. My best friend actually would have graduated next fall, and she now has to wait for spring. I don't know if I'd be willing to wait because the excitement level wouldn't be the same."

**- Erika Hamilton**
*Public relations*



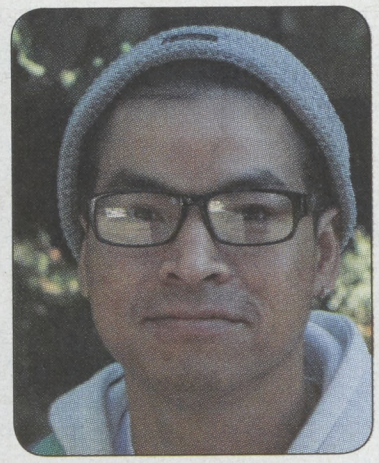
"I think it's not fair because a lot of people finish in the fall. ... I think that's the most important part of college, to be honest, for my family at least. I wouldn't wait since I live in LA, but I'd like to be able to walk."

**- Neveen Younan**
*Interior design*



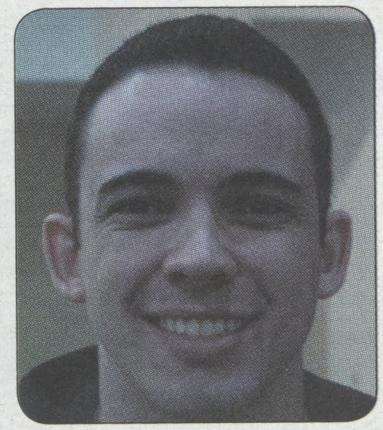
"It was a little upsetting because I don't want to have to come back after I go start my life after college. But it's really not that big of an issue. As long as I get my degree, it's not a big deal."

**- Ashley Scannell**
*Sociology*



"I'm supposed to graduate next fall. I don't mind it, but it being more crowded (in the spring) was my only concern. I was worried about whether my family can sit through it or not. It's not too bad since I'm in the area."

**- Pahny Khaman**
*Biology*



"I'm very glad to be able to graduate in the winter commencement. I've sat through my share of graduations, and I know how long they can go. There's a lot of grads over the year, and the new ceremonies are going to go for hours."

**- Eric Bollinger**
*Computer science*

# Sac State ride-hailing app ends before it begins

## CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN WITH ZIMRIDE

**Rin Carbin**
*@SS_Horo*

Despite being nearly ready for launch, a campus ride-hailing service meant to alleviate Sacramento State's traffic and parking problems has fallen through in contract negotiations.

Zimride, owned by Enterprise Holdings Inc., is a ride-hailing service similar to Lyft that would connect Sac State students with one another for carpooling. The ride-hailing app was announced in the spring in anticipation of reduced parking spaces caused by extensive campus construction during the usually busy fall semester.

University Transportation and Parking Services (UTAPS) introduced Zimride as a way for students to find carpool partners and reduce the number of vehicles on campus. UTAPS also hoped students would continue to use the service past the fall semester to reduce environmental impact and keep parking spaces open.

A little under two months after the fall semester began, Sac State's Procurement & Contract Services Office, which handles contract negotiations and campus purchases, received word that Enterprise Holdings Inc. would not sign the contract because of provisions that Sac State requires in every agreement.

According to John Guion, director of Procurement & Contract Services, Enterprise Holdings Inc. was unwilling to accept or negotiate Sac State's general terms, including payment and intellectual property arrangements and insurance agreements protecting Sac State in case of future problems.

"They indicated to me that they were not going to accept any of our general provisions, and that was the main stumbling block," Guion said. "If there's provisions they don't like the wording of, many times we'll go in and negotiate that wording to where we both have a mutual understanding and agreement that we can live with and move forward with. But to wholesale out and say, 'We're not accepting any of them, and we're not going to negotiate,' we can't accept that."

Laura Bryant, a spokesperson for Enterprise Holdings Inc., said in an email that the company was "disappointed that CSUS' provisions were written in such a way as to prevent us from reaching a similar agreement," and that other universities in California did not require the same provisions.

Even though the contract went unsigned, Enterprise Holdings Inc. had already set up much of the service for Sac State, including the basic "look and feel" and ability to create profiles according to UTAPS Director Tony Lucas.

While Lucas said he was disappointed that Sac State did not receive Zimride's service in time for the fall semester, the unsigned contract was "maybe good news."

"Even though I'm not thrilled about it, I guess I'm kind of happy to find out before we invested way too much energy in the implementation of it," Lucas said.

As for the next step, Lucas said that UTAPS will seek out a different ride-hailing service, whether by returning to the runners-ups to Zimride — Rydite and RideAmigos — or by redoing the search to see if any services had changed or have just started since early in the spring semester.




**CLAIRE MORGAN** - The State Hornet

University Parking and Transportation's plans to bring the ride-hailing service Zimride to campus have fallen through in contract negotiations between the service and Sacramento State.

> **"We'll still do it, and we'll still have people that are interested in the program, but it's not going to be done in time for fall"**
>
> **- Tony Lucas**
> *UTAPS director*

Rydite appears to have closed, however, with its webpage and social media displaying a "goodbye" message, and the app itself no longer on Apple's App Store.

For RideAmigos, Lucas said the prior semester's student representatives for the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), the board that approved Zimride, disliked RideAmigos for looking "old-school" and not being neither app-based nor mobile-friendly, but he added that RideAmigos may have changed since it was last reviewed.

However, junior art major Ashley Mclemore said that a carpool service — regardless of being in app form or mobile-friendly — would help her feel safer commuting to campus from Citrus Heights.

Mclemore said that she wakes up early to catch a 6 a.m. bus for her 8 a.m. class, and that she has been harassed while waiting for or riding the bus, even when it was light out.

"(A carpool) would save me a lot of time so I don't have to wake up so many hours early, and (I would) probably feel safer since it's not just walking out there to a giant bus of strangers." Mclemore said.

Despite the delayed introduction of a ride-hailing service to Sac State and Parking Structure V planned to open in time for the spring semester, Lucas said he still believes a ride-hailing service will be beneficial for Sac State in the long term.

"We'll still do it, and we'll still have people that are interested in the program, but it's not going to be done in time for fall," Lucas said. "That was our really big hope, to have this thing up and running during the summer, but this is still a very important initiative for the campus, and we are going to pursue this with a lot of energy."

# The events center that never was

## CENTER WAS SUPPOSED TO COME WITH 'DESTINATION 2010' — SO WHAT HAPPENED?

**Carlo Marzan**
*@SultanKoY*

It may be hard to believe, but there was a time before The WELL was an established building on Sacramento State's campus. In 2004, George W. Bush was president, YouTube had yet to exist and Sac State students voted in favor of a student fee increase to fund an initiative called Destination 2010, which proposed a recreation/wellness/events center.

Then-President Alexander Gonzalez proposed Destination 2010, a project that would both improve already-existing buildings, as well as add new buildings in an effort to create a more welcoming campus culture and environment.

At the center of Gonzalez's initiative was an events center, which was said to be "a signature facility, with students able to exercise, go to concerts, attend athletic events and more at one exciting facility," according to a fall 2004 Capital University Magazine article.

"Located on the north side of Hornet Stadium, it will include such things as a new student health center, fitness center, swimming pool, athletic courts, a bowling center, fitness classrooms, a child-care center, a conference center and an 8,000-seat arena for events such as commencement and intercollegiate athletics," the article said.

"There was funding that was supposed to go towards an athletic (or) some sort of events center that would share this space," said The WELL Director Kate Smith. "So it wasn't strictly an events center, it was going to be incorporated within this actual building."

Students passed a referendum to increase the University Union/WELL portion of student in a three step process. A $10 fee was approved on the condition that it would end after $25 million had been raised. Then it was raised to $110 a semester, which was calculated based on consumer price index (CPI), an economic measurement that examines the average prices of goods and services.

"(A CPI) basically acknowledges the fact of you have a dollar amount in 2004, well, that dollar amount is worth something different in the year 2018," Smith said. "So, there's a small increase each year based on that cost-of-living amount."

The referendum mandated that the increase would fluctuate per semester based on inflation. This referendum failed to pass two times prior to its passage on April 29, 2004.

"The WELL fee was added to the existing University Union fee because both fees were administered, collected and used by the same entity," said Gina Curry, Financial Services Associate Vice President.

As previously reported by The State Hornet in 2014, prices for buildings increased after the referendum passed, making the initial cost to build an events center, along with the recreation wellness center, more than what was anticipated.

"They had to scale back on the plan and said, 'Our financial plan is going to allow us to do just the recreation center,' " said Curry. "We're going to have to go further down the line before we'll ever be able to afford the stadium upgrades and the events center."

The WELL was built in 2010 and has remained popular on campus since it's opening.

An increase to the Union/WELL fee of $99.00 (bringing the total of $319.00) was made in fall of 2015 to contribute toward the the expansion of The WELL and the Union. The events center was put to another regular referendum where students voted against an additional $438 annual fee increase to fund an events center.




**MATTHEW NOBERT** - The State Hornet

The WELL was a part of Sacramento State's Destination 2010 plans that would also include the proposed event center, but rising costs only allowed for The WELL to be built.

At the time, The Sacramento Bee reported that "the new fee would have boosted the University's fees to the sixth highest in the system with a total tuition and fee cost of $7,086."

Today, all Union/WELL fees go toward running and maintaining the two buildings. Phase two is in full effect, evident by the ongoing visible construction in the Union.

"The expansion of the Union is (something) that's going to be awesome for the students, and that certainly should be and has been a priority," said Sac State Athletic Director Mark Orr. "I think the campus has handled everything the right way here. I do think the events center could continue to enhance our campus."

Smith clarified that none of the student fees that were collected for The WELL after the referendum passed in 2004 were used to build the Broad Field House athletics facility, the only other addition to campus in the same time period.

"All of the student fees go directly toward operating both buildings," said Smith. "We don't have any funds that are going toward an event center."

Orr said it might be a while before we see a shovel in the ground, but he believes that an events center is still 'on the horizon,' and Curry agreed.

"I think that because it's still a priority, and it's still something where they're having some focused effort, I would absolutely say it's on the horizon," Curry said. "But what's the horizon though? Is it one year? Is it 10 years? I can't say, I'm not the expert in that area, but I just know that it continues to be a priority, and it is still a fundraising area that there has been some focus."

Outside of student funds and the unlikely prospect of more state funding, the University looked to other places for revenue; mainly, donations. The University created a call to action known as the "Power of 1000 Hornets;" if enough sizable donations are made, costs could be minimized or paid for in full.

Orr said a feasibility study is underway in which an outside firm will analyze what will be needed for the building to come to fruition.

"That's bringing in an outside firm to do an analysis on the size of the facility, what should be programmed in the facility beyond just a basketball court and seats," said Orr. "What else should be in there, where the facility should be located on campus … What are potential funding resources for the facilities, both traditional to non-traditional."

# WHO GETS A CUT?

**While all 23 CSU campuses pay the same amount in base tuition fees, what you pay in total tuition differs based on campus fees. At Sac State, these fees add up — to $731 per semester, to be precise. But what are these fees? We've broken down every charge.**

*By Raul Hernandez // @Raul_Hdez04*

### Intercollegiate athletics/ spirits fee: $141

Provides support for Sacramento State sports teams and athletes by contributing to scholarships, travel costs, coaches' pay and other support programs. This fee also allows students to attend games for free.

### ASI fee: $67

Provides activities that are non-academic, which are provided by Associated Students, Inc. Some of the provided institutions and activities include the aquatic center, PEAK Adventures, KSSU Radio station, The ASI Business Office, SafeRides and the ASI Government Office and Office of Governmental Affairs.

### WELL fee: $337

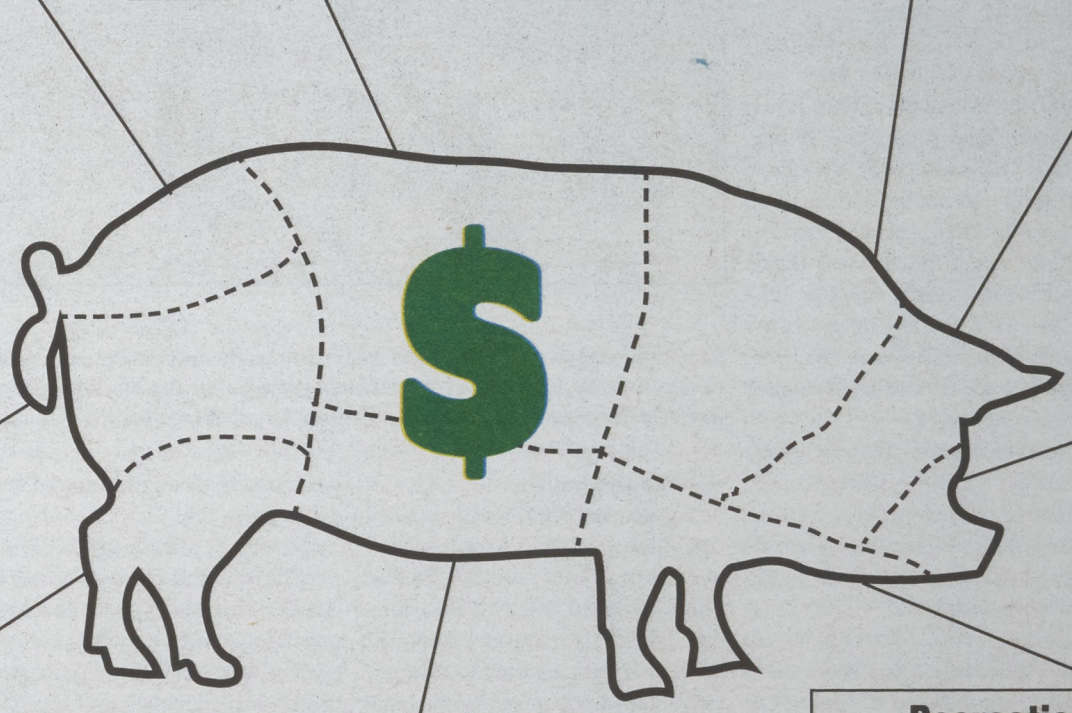
Maintains buildings and provides support for functions of the Union and The WELL.

### State Hornet fee: $3

Allows The State Hornet to publish a print issue once a week, as well as post online 24/7.

### Transportation fee: $20.50

Allows students to have access to free transportation on Sacramento Regional Transportation services and its affiliates, including buses and light rail.



### Student Health fee: $140.50

Subsidizes cost of basic health services at the Student Health Center in The WELL. Some of these services include reproductive health, vision care and treatment of common illnesses.

### Instructional Fees: $8

Subsidizes cost of educational experiences and activities that go beyond traditional in-class learning experiences, like those in laboratories on campus.

### Base tuition: $5,742

Base fee mandated by the California State University system that pays for courses and salaries for faculty and staff members.

### Recreational Sports fee: $14

Allows students to participate in sports and recreation clubs, including wakeboarding, as well as participate in Intramural Sports League. Sports and recreation clubs are led and organized by students and are open to students of all skill levels, while Intramural Sports League establishes leagues for student groups to play in.

# Sac State basketball progra

## Hornets hope to exceed expectations despite losing veterans in starting lineup

**Angel Guerrero**
*@AngelGuerrerooo*

After a lackluster 13-18 campaign last year, the Sacramento State men's basketball team is preparing to try and exceed expectations by doing more with less in the 2017-18 season.

Sac State, which won its lone exhibition game of the season 94-75 over UC Santa Cruz on Friday, will feature a starting lineup without forward Nick Hornsby and center Eric Stuteville for the first time in three years. The duo has moved on to play professional basketball in Germany and Arizona, and their absence has been felt already by players and coaches alike.

"Any time you lose two guys like that, it will affect your team for sure," Sac State coach Brian Katz said. "Their leadership, their toughness, their commitment — that will be hard to replace, but it's yet to be seen how we'll go about that exactly."

One thing that is certain is sophomore forward Joshua Patton will be on the court much more than his 9.5 minutes per game average from last season would indicate. Patton — who Katz said will start at the five spot for the Hornets — only averaged 2.9 points per game last season but was tied fourth in the Big Sky Conference in total blocked shots despite his limited time on the floor.

"I'm going to have to sit in there and do some of the rebounding that Nick was doing, some of the scoring inside the paint, blocking shots like Eric was doing and just holding down the paint area like both of them did," Patton said. "Losing them is a huge thing because everybody saw what they did. Nick was the (third)-leading rebounder for our school, and Eric (had the) most shot blocks. They did a lot, so I'm going to have to fill in more in that aspect."

Another position that will need to be filled is the shooting guard spot, which has been left vacant due a season-ending injury sustained to senior co-captain Marcus Graves. Graves, who had started 62 consecutive games dating back to 2015, leaves a void in multiple categories: he was third in assist-to-turnover ratio in the Big Sky at 2.0, 15th in the conference with an average of 13.9 points per game and 34th in the nation in assists.

Sac State senior forward and co-captain Justin Strings said Graves is one of the best guards in the conference, and the loss of his production is going to be a big burden on the team.

"Marcus is so dynamic as a player, the way he can score and facilitate the ball, so it's going to be tough to fill those shoes, but we have a lot of guys with chips on their shoulders, and guys who come in from (Junior College), or guys who have been with the program for a few years who can play and are going to have to step up now," Strings said. "I think with the situation with Marcus, we're just going to have to figure out what we can and can't do and just try to make up for what we're missing with him."



**MATTHEW DYER** - The State Hornet

Sacramento State senior forward Justin Strings drives past Brandon Gfeller of Montana for a layup in the paint during a 92-83 win Jan. 21 at the Nest. Strings led the Hornets with a game-high 44 points in a 94-75 win against UC Santa Cruz in their lone exhibition game of the 2017-18 season Friday at the Nest.

In the first and only exhibition game of the season without Graves, junior guards Kevin Hicks (16), Jeff Wu (12) and Jordan Tolbert (6) combined for a total of 34 points against UC Santa Cruz. However, it will be Strings who will be relied on the most after he stole the show with 44 points on 19-of-23 shooting from the field at the Nest.

"Our offensive design will be around him," Katz said, referring to Strings who led the team in scoring (15.9 points per game) last season. "The guy made all-league last year as a junior, so he's certainly played in big games, (he's) got experience, and we know that we can play through him and feel good about that."

However, one thing the Hornets haven't felt content about is the Big Sky media's and coaches' preseason polls, which predicted Sac State to finish eighth and ninth, respectively, on Oct. 13. These predictions were even given before Graves' season-ending injury was first reported by The State Hornet on Oct. 23.

"(Katz has) been bringing the (preseason polls) up and how we have to come into this season believing we're underdogs because that's how it is," Patton said. "Most schools, and most coaches, don't have us high in the polls, (so) we need to embrace that and just play harder than everybody else, outwork everybody and be ready to work."

Missing three important pieces to its starting lineup, Sac State will tip off its regular season against Colorado State Friday at 6:35 p.m. at the Moby Arena in Fort Collins, Colorado.

"Marcus Graves, Eric Stuteville and Nick Hornsby are going to be tough to replace," Katz said. "But (we) know it's going to be a long season, and it's so much about staying with the process and just continuing to get better and putting your team in a position to compete and be successful every night, and we feel good about our group."

# rams tip off regular season

## Men's Basketball

Colorado State
Nov. 10 at 6:35 p.m.
Moby Arena, Fort Collins, CO

## Women's Basketball

Kentucky
Nov. 10 at 4 p.m.
Memorial Coliseum, Lexington, KY



MATTHEW DYER – The State Hornet

Sacramento State senior guard Maranne Johnson dribbles down the court looking for a teammate to pass the ball to against Cal Poly Nov. 13, 2016 at the Nest. Johnson led the Hornets with a game-high 24 points in a 100-53 win against Holy Names University in their lone exhibition game of the 2017-18 season Friday at the Nest.

## Trio of seniors lead experienced women's basketball team into 2017-18 season

**Thomas Frey**
*@ThomasFreyRP*

The shot Weber State hit with 2.9 seconds to go in overtime of the Big Sky Tournament to end the Sacramento State women's basketball season in March still stings senior guard Maranne Johnson.

"Weber (State) is a great team," Johnson said. "They just outworked us. I'm looking forward to playing everyone in the conference, and I'm hoping to outwork each team."

Johnson was one of five players to score at least 10 points for the Hornets in that first-round, postseason game and is the only one returning. Fortunately for Sac State, almost every player who will play a key role this season saw big minutes off the bench last year.

"It's hard to win Division I basketball games," Sac State head coach Bunky Harkleroad said. "Moving forward, our kids that are here have a better understanding for what it takes to be successful."

Harkleroad, who is entering his fifth season leading the Hornets, will be throwing his team into road games against ranked teams in hostile environments. Sac State will play at No. 15 West Virginia and No. 24 Miami while also playing at Kentucky and Arizona State, which are both just outside the top 25.

Harkleroad said he set up the tough road schedule because it will help his team learn and improve while toughening them up.

Before Sac State begins its November road trip from Friday to Nov. 30, the Hornets defeated Holy Names University 100-53 in their only exhibition game of the season on Nov. 3 at the Nest. Johnson led the team with a game-high 24 points.

This will be a trend, as the team will lean heavily on Johnson all season. However, she'll have the help of fellow seniors and team captains Justyce Dawson and Kyhonta Doughty.

Doughty missed last season after tearing her meniscus, but she has worked with trainers to get back into playing shape and said she likes how the practices are going.

"We have had a lot of newcomers who have come in ready to play," Doughty said. "I think we will be able to capitalize on what we have now."

Doughty, who stands at 6-foot-1, is going to be a force against smaller opponents in the post, as she'll grab rebounds and block shots, Johnson said.

"She is a tough girl, one of the toughest on the team," Johnson said. "She is very strong down low for her size, and she plays bigger than how she appears."

Dawson rounds out the seniors who are expected to receive big minutes. Last season, Dawson led the team with 4.3 assists per game.

"Justyce is going to have to be steady and efficient for us at the point guard spot," Harkleroad said. "I think that there are a lot of people in here who can help us, and frankly, we are going to need something from everybody."

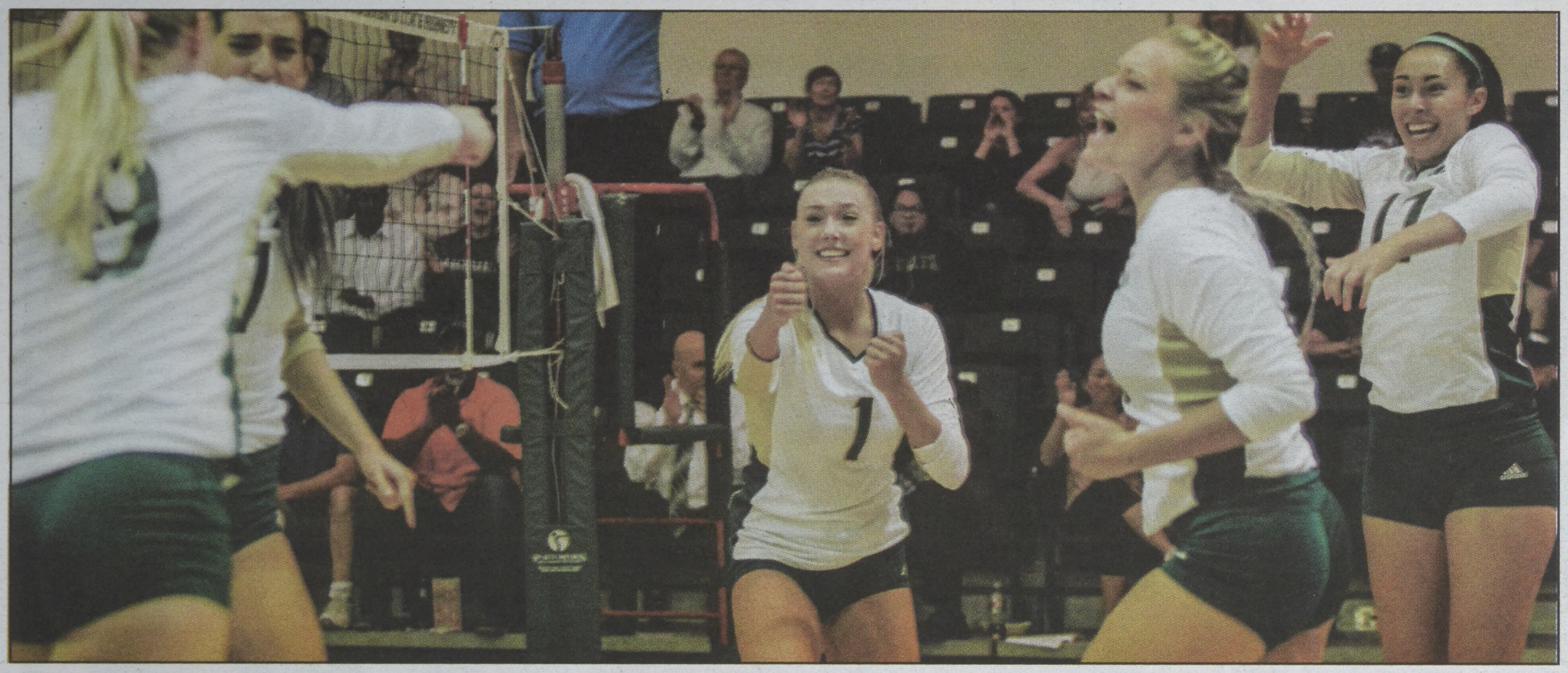
Harkleroad said that he expects his team to be 10 or 11 players deep. Sophomore point guard Tiara Scott is the leading returning scorer aside from Johnson. Scott averaged 7.4 points and dished out 2.9 assists per game.

Junior guard Raegen Rohn has improved the most in the offseason, Harkleroad said. She averaged 3.5 points and 1.4 rebounds per game last season, but in the three games she played at least 20 minutes, her averages increased to 11.3 and 3.3.

Last season, the team played in five games that were decided by four points or less, winning only one. After the one-point overtime loss to Weber State in the Big Sky Tournament, Rohn said the team has been working on conditioning so that they'll be in the best condition possible at the end of games.

"We definitely bring it up, and we use it as motivation," Rohn said. "This year, we are going to be better, and that isn't going to happen again."

Sac State will open its season at 4 p.m. Friday against Kentucky at the Memorial Coliseum in Lexington, Kentucky.



**THOMAS FREY** - The State Hornet

Sacramento State senior setter Kennedy Kurtz celebrates with teammates after a kill by senior outside hitter Shannon Boyle in set five against North Dakota Oct. 5 at Colberg Court. After defeating Portland State on Saturday, Sac State clinched its first Big Sky Conference regular season championship since 2007.

# Hornets win Big Sky regular season title

## Volleyball team earns No. 1 seed in conference tournament

**Thomas Frey**
*@ThomasFreyRP*

With two games remaining in the Big Sky Conference regular season, the Sacramento State volleyball team has already clinched the regular season conference title.

The Hornets (22-8, 13-1 Big Sky) won the conference for the first time since 2007 after defeating Portland State on Saturday at Colberg Court. By winning the Big Sky, Sac State ensures that it will host the conference tournament in Sacramento and be the top-seeded team from Nov. 16-18.

"We are looking to win every match we can, they are all equally important," Sac State senior outside hitter Shannon Boyle said, referring to the final two remaining regular season games at Idaho State and Weber State.

Boyle has left her fingerprints on close wins all season. In the Hornets' five-set win over North Dakota on Oct. 5, she made the most incredible dig that senior setter Kennedy Kurtz said she had ever seen, while finishing with 13 kills and 35 digs.

Against Southern Utah on Oct. 28, Boyle recorded her 1,000th career kill, and Thursday at home against Montana State, she recorded career dig No. 1,000 to become the 12th player in program history to record more than 1,000 digs and kills.

"It feels great," Boyle said, referring to her accomplishments at Sac State. "I didn't know if I would be able to do that with a bad back and not being able to play much my freshman or sophomore year. I owe it to the team."

However, Boyle isn't the only Sac State player to reach a big milestone this season. Senior libero Brigitte Murdock recorded her 1,000th career dig, and Kurtz recorded her 5,000th career assist.

"It's awesome," Kurtz said. "All three of us have been key players for the last four years, and it just kind of shows all of our hard work over the four years, and it is really awesome to see it."

Kurtz leads the nation in total assists this year and became the fourth player in school history to hit the 5,000 career assist mark on Oct. 21 at Eastern Washington. She also reached 1,000 career digs earlier in the season and ranks third of all time in school history in assists with 5,240.

Meanwhile, the junior trio of middle blocker Lana Brown, middle blocker Brie Gathright and outside hitter Mikaela Nocetti have made nearly as big of an impact as the seniors.

Nocetti is second on the team in kills and had her best game of the season against North Dakota where she finished with 21 kills and 18 digs. In the four-set win over Northern Arizona on Oct. 14, Nocetti also hit the 20-20 mark with 21 kills and a career-high 22 digs.

Brown leads the team, defensively, with 132 blocks. Against Portland State on Saturday, she recorded a career-high 11 blocks, including three keys blocks in the fifth set to help give the Hornets the push they needed to win.

"Lana's offense was out of this world," Boyle said after defeating Portland State. "Especially in the third, fourth and fifth set. That was clutch for us."

Gathright has done a little bit of everything for Sac State. In the Hornets' five-set win over Eastern Washington on Oct. 21, she hit .429 with 14 kills while recording three blocks.

Sophomore Sarah Davis has left her mark on this season as well. After rarely playing as a freshman, Davis has 199 kills in a starting role this season.

On Saturday, Sac State rallied from a 2-0 deficit to win the final three sets and match against Portland State. Each player's unique skill set played a part in that victory.

"It's hard to single any one person out," Sac State coach Ruben Volta said. "We needed everyone to play well, and we got it down the stretch."

The Hornets will next play at Idaho State Thursday at 6 p.m. before ending the regular season against Weber State on Saturday.





The Sacramento State football team defeated Northern Colorado 50-21 Saturday night at Hornet Stadium. Visit StateHornet.com for a full recap of the game.



Clockwise from immediate left, the Sacramento State football team waits in the pregame tunnel before running out onto the field against Northern Colorado Saturday at Hornet Stadium. Sacramento State freshman running back Elijah Dotson, middle, is pursued by a Northern Colorado defender. Sac State freshman defensive lineman Wyatt Hjelm sacks Northern Colorado sophomore quarterback Conor Regan. Sac State junior safety Immanuel Anderson, right, celebrates with junior safety Mister Harriel, top right, after an interception. Sac State junior receiver Nolan Merker evades Northern Colorado sophomore cornerback Marshaun Cameron. Sac junior receiver Alexis Robinson catches a 17-yard touchdown.

**PHOTOS BY MATTHEW NOBERT**







# The oddity that is Super Mario's new 'Odyssey'

**Robert Todd**
*@robnewssource*




**Screenshot via Nintendo/Super Mario Odyssey**

With the help of his new sidekick, Cappy, Mario can toss his hat at creatures and objects, transforming him and giving him new abilities. When in Tyrannosaurus rex form, Mario can break stone barriers and stomp through hordes of baddies without breaking a sweat.

Mario has starred in many video games since his debut in the 1981 arcade hit, "Donkey Kong," but it was the release of "Super Mario Bros." in 1985 that established the Mushroom Kingdom as the mustachioed mascot's home. In the years following, the red-spotted toadstools, rolling green hills and smiling clouds served as a familiar backdrop for players guiding Mario on his many adventures to rescue Princess Peach from the clutches of the evil Bowser, King of the Koopas.

In Mario's latest adventure, "Super Mario Odyssey," Nintendo's developers pull the overalls-clad hero out of his comfort zone and into the great, big world beyond the Mushroom Kingdom. The creativity on display in these new 3-D environments make "Odyssey" a stand-out experience for Mario fans and one of the most entertaining games this year.

The story once again involves Bowser kidnapping Peach, but this time, he plans to marry her with the help of the Broodals, a crew of maniacal wedding-planning bunnies. The game opens with Bowser booting Mario off his airship after a tough battle. He then lands in the Cap Kingdom where he befriends Cappy, a ghostly character who hides in Mario's hat and grants him new powers.

Gone are the power-ups of old Mario games, replaced by the "capture" move offered by Mario's new sidekick. With a toss of his hat, Mario can inhabit a number of different creatures and items, including Goombas, frogs, taxi cabs and even a Tyrannosaurus rex, each with it's own unique set of abilities that make it more fun to progress through the game's numerous kingdoms.

The breadth of the game's levels is one of the highlights of "Odyssey." In one kingdom, Mario might be jumping over the deep, water-drenched chasms of a prehistoric mountain top, in another, he might be running his way through the bustling streets of a big city. The developers did a fantastic job of putting Mario into environments not typical to the series, and it's refreshing to see something besides the all-too-familiar Mushroom Kingdom set pieces. The different kingdoms span across the entire world, and Mario must travel between them in Cappy's airship, the Odyssey.

The goal in each kingdom is to collect Power Moons, which are used to power the Odyssey as it chases down Bowser's airship. These moons are everywhere and can be obtained in many ways. Some are in plain sight, others are hidden in secret bonus rooms or locked behind various challenges. Probably the coolest of these challenges are the segments that mimic the original "Super Mario Bros." game, which have Mario in his classic sprite form running, jumping and breaking bricks along a 2-D plain, just like the old days.

The amount of moons to collect in this game (nearly 1,000) will keep players going for a long time, even after rescuing the princess. This also makes the game's challenge adaptable, as it's pretty easy to find the 200 or so moons needed to catch up to Bowser, but it's a brutal undertaking to nab them all. Depending on how committed some players might be, it's an achievement that will require a lot of time and patience.

There is little to no fault with "Odyssey," but the game does suffer from the usual problems that come with 3-D platformers. Miscalculating jumps and falling to your death is a common occurrence, for example, thanks to a misaligned camera view. Players do have full control of the angle, but it can be annoying to have to adjust the camera constantly when you just want to navigate a tough platform section quickly. It's a minor issue that skilled players are likely used to, but it might be something to consider for players intimidated by 3-D games.

"Super Mario Odyssey" combines the tight Mario gameplay players know and love with new and creative worlds for the portly protagonist to explore. It feels both fresh and familiar, but it's also delightfully odd in a way that Mario games haven't been in a long time. It's definitely worth a look for anyone wanting a fun game that will keep them playing for a while.

"Super Mario Odyssey" is available exclusively on the Nintendo Switch for $59.99.

# An album for every breakup

**Sharlene Phou**
*@sharlenephou*

Sam Smith's sophomore album, "The Thrill of It All," offers a collection of 10 songs that take listeners on a "thrill" ride through the different stages of love and life. While his last album, "In the Lonely Hour," grapples with the loneliness that comes with unrequited love, "The Thrill of It All" offers much more.

This album's lead single, "Too Good at Goodbyes" seems to pick up right where "The Lonely Hour" album left off. The song is about someone who has been left heartbroken many times before and is now wary of getting too close to someone new, afraid that they too may leave.

In contrast, "Say It First" is a song that will stir up those butterflies-in-your-stomach feelings that come with falling in love. Simply put, the song is about that nerve-wracking need of wanting to hear your partner say they love you first. At the song's beginning, Smith describes how he's used to feeling empty and how strange it feels to fall in love again. "Say It First" gives you hope that Smith has finally broken free from his lonely hours.

Smith switches up the tone again with "Midnight Train," a song about putting yourself first when drifting from a relationship. It's highly relatable for those who feel unfulfilled in a relationship and need to get away to focus on some self-love.

"I choose me, and I know that's selfish, love / you are a dream, and I can't thank you enough / but I give another piece of me away / every waking day that I'm with you,"Smith solemnly sings.

Although Smith's song explains that he still has love for his partner and will surely miss them, it would be wrong of him to stay and give them hope for a future. He ultimately chooses himself over his partner and walks away from the relationship.

Perhaps the most personal and empowering track on the album is "HIM". Although he is an openly gay man, Smith has never directly referred to men as the target of his affection in his love songs. In "HIM," Smith repeatedly declares "it is him I love" to a "Holy Father," a reference to God or a paternal father.

"HIM" tells a coming-out narrative that many LGBTQ+ people can relate to. Smith opens the song by saying he has a secret that he can no longer keep. Although he may be seen as a sinner, he can't deny his feelings.

"Holy Father, judge my sins / I'm not afraid of what they will bring / I'm not the boy that you thought you wanted / I love him," Smith sings.

But not all the songs on this album are slow and solemn.

The track immediately following "HIM" pulls you out of its heavy tone and lifts your spirits. "Baby, You Make Me Crazy" has a more fun, upbeat drum melody that anyone can easily sing along to. It features a choir and sounds reminiscent of old soul or jazz. The song stands as another heartbreak anthem and encourages getting over a breakup by jamming to good music, hanging out with close friends and having an all-around good time to forget your sorrows.

A special edition of "The Thrill of It All," featuring four additional songs, is available on Spotify.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO
Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism Administration

**RPTA 122**

**COMPLETE the only *Writing Intensive* course offered during winter break (January 2-19, 2018) in just 3 weeks!**

**SCHEDULE**

| COURSE | DAY | TIME |
|---|---|---|
| RPTA 122, sec. 1 | T/W/TH | 12:00-4:40 pm |
| RPTA 122, sec. 2 | T/W/TH | 1:20-6:00 pm |
| RPTA 122, sec. 3 | M/W/F | 9:00am-4:30pm |

***RPTA 122 will also be offered during 2018 SUMMER sessions A and B***

# SAC STATE STYLE

## A RUNDOWN OF THE HOTTEST CAMPUS TRENDS OF 2017

Everybody wants to keep up with the latest trends during their college years. Take a walk around the Sacramento State campus, and you'll notice students sporting similar gear. They're sipping out of bulky Hydro Flask brand water bottles. They're attaching new accessories to the back of their phones. Stickers seem to be popping up everywhere too and are used to customize mobile devices. If you're curious about these items and want to follow the crowd, we've compiled a list to get you started.

***By Raul Hernandez // Photos by Sharlene Phou and Matthew Nobert***




### 1. Stickers

While many people may be familiar with the art of "sticker bombing" on cars, the trend has also made its way to college campuses. Students are personalizing their school supplies with stickers that express their individual interests and hobbies. A flurry of stickers can be found on anything from laptops and phones to reusable water bottles and notebooks. A majority of these stickers are specific and often so random that they can't be found in stores or coin machines. Redbubble, an online print shop, has a large variety of stickers and other creative items designed by independent artists. While artists are responsible for uploading their designs, printing and shipping is handled professionally by the company itself. The stickers are removable and come in four sizes. Small stickers start at $2.



### 2. Hydro Flasks

Another popular item often seen in backpack pockets is the Hydro Flask, and it's not uncommon to see it adorned in stickers as well. What makes this water bottle stand out from the rest is the vacuum-insulated technology that guards the temperature of the beverage inside. This means it keeps hot drinks hot and cold drinks cold for long periods of time. While the water bottles are very popular, the prices can be steep. The smallest size is 18 ounces and is sold for about $30. Larger sizes range from $32-$43 and can be purchased on Amazon or at hydroflask.com.




### 3. Backpacks

The backpacking game is still evolving for college students who want to wear the latest styles.Takata backpacks can easily be distinguished by their bright-colored racing harnesses used as straps. Racing seat material is also used as part of the front pocket of the backpack. As a result, the item stands as a fan favorite for many car enthusiasts. Herschel Supply Co. is another backpack brand popular with students. Also known as the "Little America Backpack," the design is unique for the adjustable magnetic strap closures with metal pin clips. They can be found at most retail stores and online at the Herschel website. Prices range from $20-$200.Takata backpacks meanwhile are available online for $39.99 at the Tuned in Tokyo website, which is a streetwear brand known for selling items dedicated to car apparel and the JDM lifestyle.



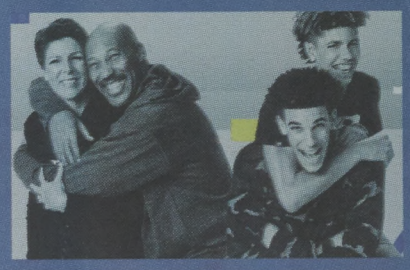
### 4. PopSockets

This odd, little, round accessory can be found stuck to the back of phones. While it appears to be a design aesthetic, the PopSocket functions by popping out of its socket and acting as a kickstand. Slide it between two fingers to get a better grip. Gone are the days of dropping your phone on your face when laying down. You can also wrap your earbuds around the socket to keep them from tangling. PopSockets come in a variety of fun designs to express your individuality, and you can make your own custom design at the PopSocket website. Prices range from $8-$15.

# What to watch: Facebook Watch

Back in August, Facebook introduced its new "Watch" feature filled with exclusive video programs found only on the social medium. A wide range of content is available, including sports, cooking and music. Watch is a free service and is accessible from any mobile device. All you need is a Facebook account. This move for the social media giant shouldn't come as a surprise, as millions of videos are already being watched, liked and shared on the platform every day. Here is a list of some shows to keep an eye on from Facebook Watch

**Shaun Holkko**
*@Holkko23*



## Ball in the Family

The Ball family gained national attention after media outlets like ESPN followed Lonzo Ball's college basketball career at UCLA. The family is led by Lonzo's father, LaVar, who has become notorious for continuously running his mouth whenever a microphone or camera is placed in front of him. His wife, Tina, suffered a stroke back in March and is slowly recuperating thanks to the support of her family.

LaVar's master plan is to get all three of his sons, who he calls "the Ball boys," into the NBA. Lonzo, 20, was drafted second overall in June's NBA draft to the Lakers in his hometown of Los Angeles. LiAngelo, 18, followed in his older brother's footsteps and is now a freshman at UCLA playing college basketball for the Bruins. LaMelo, 16, will be homeschooled by his father, so he has time to work on his basketball skills without distractions.

This show offers a new perspective into the lives of the Balls you don't usually see in other media coverage. The Balls are like the sports world's version of the Kardashians.

Photo courtesy of Bunim/ Murray Productions




## How it Went Down

Recording artists explain the story behind some of their greatest hits and how they came together in this show created by Billboard. The first season features artists like DJ Khaled, Miley Cyrus, Steve Aoki, SZA and Sam Smith.

In the episode featuring DJ Khaled, he tells the tale of how his hit song, "I'm The One," came to be. The track features some of the best artists in the industry today: Chance the Rapper, Lil Wayne, Justin Bieber and Quavo. Khaled explains how he was able to get all those artists to contribute to the song.

Viewers are treated to a behind-the-scenes look into the process of making some of today's most popular music. This show has a great concept and should be entertaining for fans of music or pop culture.

Photo courtesy of Billboard




## No Script with Marshawn Lynch

Created by Bleacher Report, this show follows Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch as he does random activities suggested to him by the show's producers during his off days. The first four episodes of the series feature Lynch drifting in a race car, pulling a hidden camera prank at a sandwich shop, skydiving indoors and becoming the next voice of Darth Vader.

"No Script" is pure comedy, as there are very few people in this world as real as Lynch. This show should be named "No Filter with Marshawn Lynch" because the football star says whatever is on his mind, no matter how offensive. Lynch is a national treasure, which is why this is one of the best shows on Facebook Watch, by far.

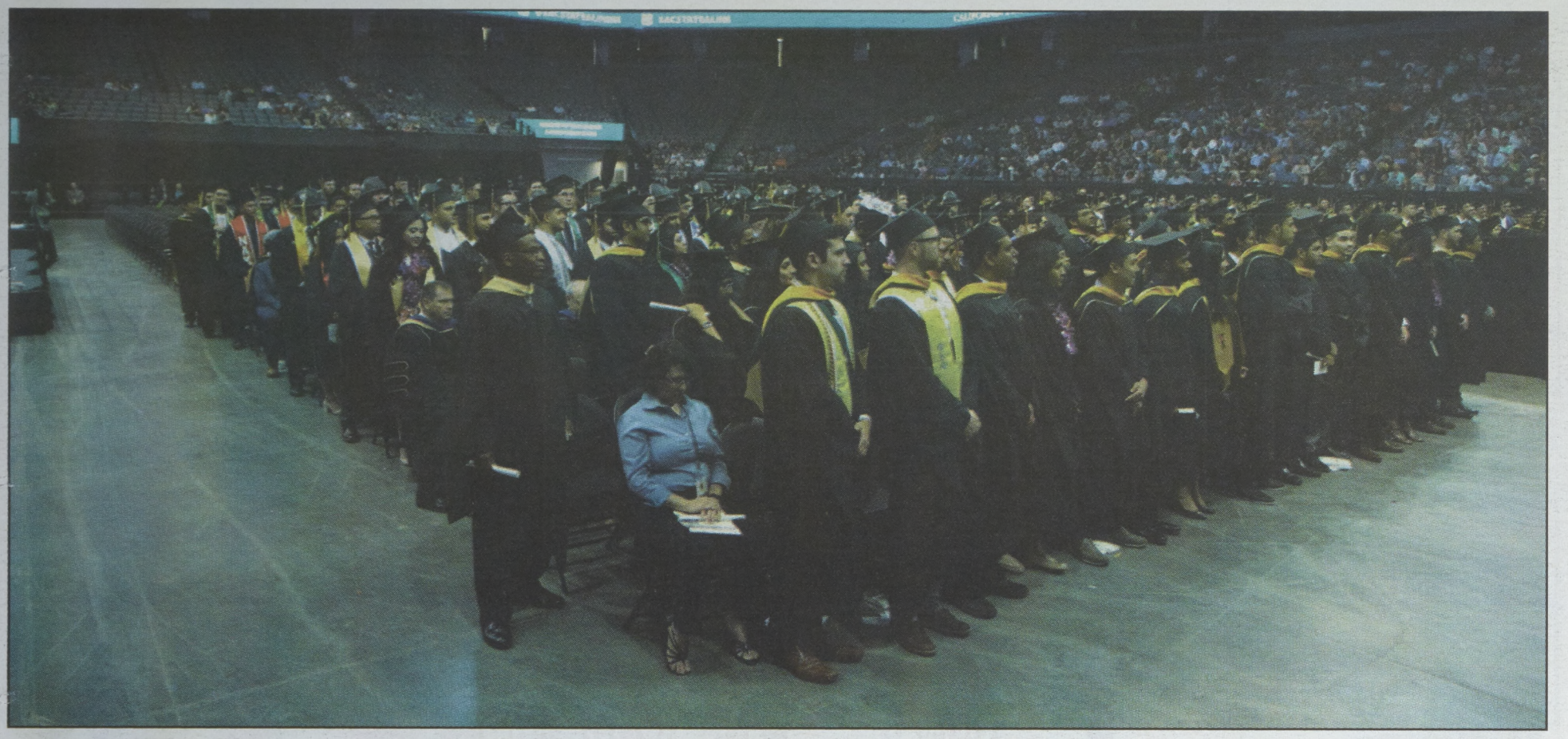
Photo courtesy of Bleacher Report

KITCHEN Little

## Kitchen Little

This show is cute, entertaining and appeals to anyone who likes cooking or watching kids learn. Created by Tastemade, each episode begins with the child watching a Facebook recipe video. They then attempt to repeat the video's steps to a professional chef based only on memory. The chefs follow the childrens' orders as they create the dish together with only the ingredients found in the kitchen. The trickiest part for the chefs is making sure each ingredient is prepared properly to produce the perfect meal.

Photo courtesy of Tastemade



NICOLE FOWLER - The State Hornet

Graduates stand at the spring 2017 commencement ceremony at Golden 1 Center. After this year, Sac State will holdonly one graduation ceremony per year.

# Sac State should have asked first

## Ending winter commencements was a huge decision. So why not give students a chance to speak?

Well, Sac State, you've done it again.

Once again, our campus is going through a major change, and students are the ones who are suffering the consequences without ever having a say in the matter.

The recent announcement that winter commencement ceremonies will cease after this December's wasn't a decision that was made overnight. This is something that's been in the works for a while now.

It was determined that only one commencement per year is needed because of how expensive it has been, and they would continue to be held in the new location, Sacramento's prized piglet known as the Golden 1 Center.

The other possible solution to this problem was to increase the cost of commencement fees for students. It is unendingly infuriating how many nickels and dimes students are asked to fork over, nevermind our overpriced caps and gowns.

Perhaps it is to be expected that Sac State students, like most others countrywide, be asked to pay for our own collective celebration along with everything else we pay for. Another loan could probably take care of it, after all.

But, barring a comprehensive reform to higher education in America (fingers and toes crossed), students will be given the bill over and over again. So what could have been done better this time?

Sac State had a golden opportunity to allow students to chime in on an issue that really matters to them, and they didn't take advantage of it. So, instead of issuing a school-wide vote or, at the very least, informing us and asking for feedback, some of us will have no choice but to miss out on graduation.

There was a similar situation (as well as a chance to avoid this altogether) when Destination 2010 was initially proposed. Back in 2004, when the idea of a community event center was first conceived, students were allowed to vote on whether or not they approved of a fee increase that would be associated with building the new structure, as well as other campus improvements.

Fast-forward to 2017, all that came of that vote is The WELL, a health and fitness center that delivers on only half of the vague promises that were made by the Destination 2010 initiative.

So, with no on-campus option for the likely 7,000 or so eligible graduates for the next academic year, students should be prepared for a squeeze on tickets, longer ceremonies and unhappy families.

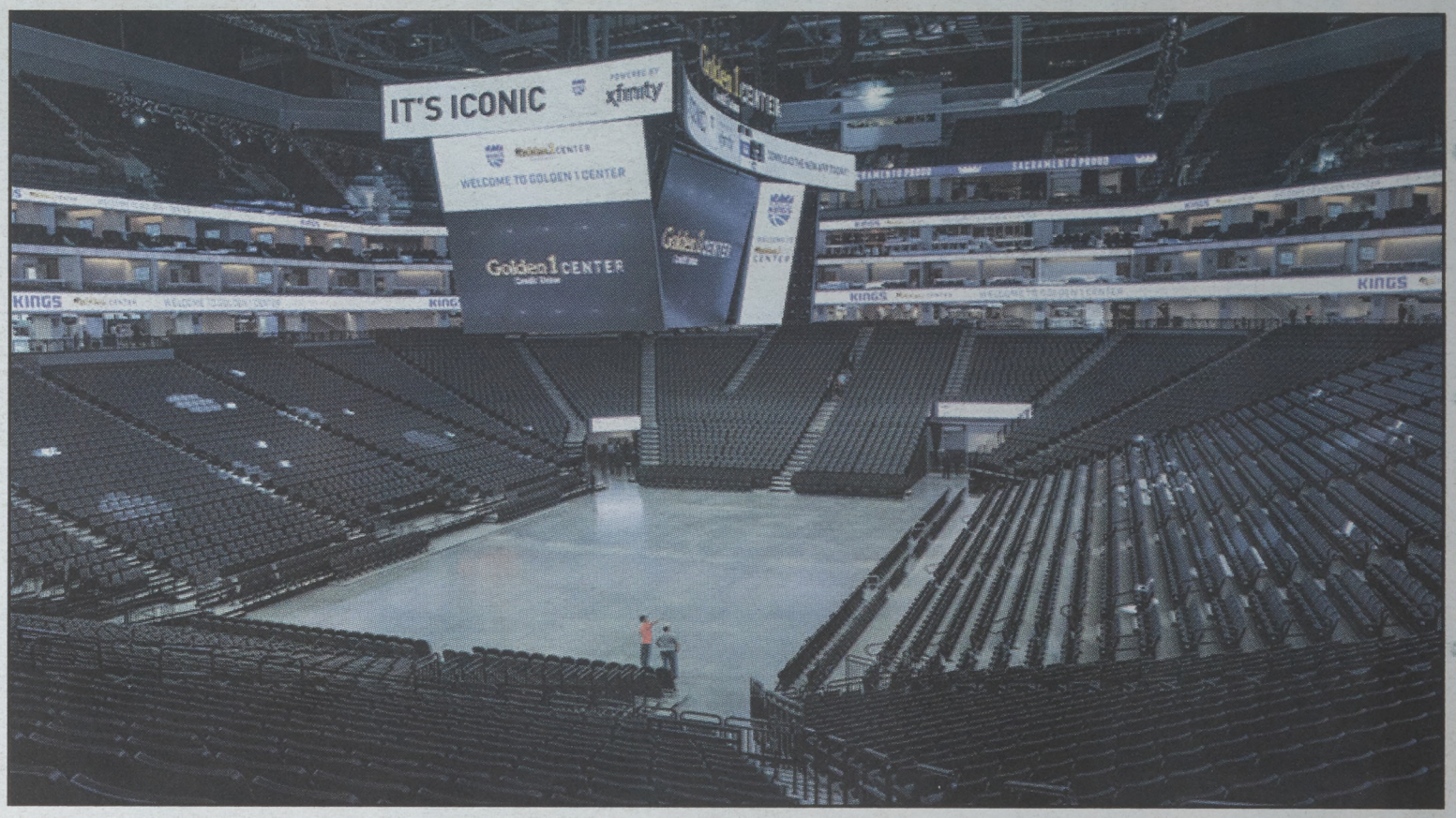
The University should prepare for disappointed students who will leave with a degree in the fall and never celebrate with their class, only further emphasizing the overwhelming feeling that we're at the academic equivalent of a Costco. Except it takes four or more years to get through the checkout line, and there was never a free sample.

So, next time, ask students what they think before making such a big leap. Get some feedback, and take the backlash on the chin before you make the decision. Actually apologize for the inconvenience and disappointment, and recognize that, without the students, there would be no Sac State.

Moreover, admit it's a money problem. What Sac State officials failed to realize is that the one thing most people (Sac State students in particular) can understand and empathize with is not having enough money to do what you want.

# Ceasing winter commencement a lose-lose

**Khanlin Rodgers**
*@khanlibear*




**FRANCISCO MEDINA** - The State Hornet

The Golden 1 Center, pictured, is the planned location for Sacramento State's December 2017 graduation ceremonies. After this year, graduation ceremonies will only be held after the Spring semester.

Last week, President Robert Nelsen announced that the graduation ceremony taking place at the end of this semester will be the last winter commencement held by Sacramento State.

He cited our campus as being the last of the 10 largest in the CSU system to hold two commencements per year and the need for "flexibility" in order to open new opportunities for the University as justification for the decision.

He also noted that, unlike the $76 fee to have your graduation application reviewed for a few seconds by a counselor, walking during the ceremony isn't actually a requirement to graduate.

Now, because of the change, all graduates from the entire academic year will walk together during the spring commencement.

While this resolves some financial issues for the University by preventing officials from spending yet another lump sum that they don't have (here's to you, Science II), it creates a couple of problems for the people to whom the graduation ceremonies matter most: the students.

One issue is that not everyone will even be able to attend their own graduation ceremony. Many soon-to-be graduates, myself included, don't plan on staying in Sacramento long after our time at Sac State concludes. This can be due to a variety of reasons, ranging from financial limitations to job opportunities in other areas.

To assume that everyone from the fall semester will be around five months later to participate in the spring ceremonies is a grave oversight by our school.

There's also the matter of ticket availability. Between the scarcity of commencement tickets last spring, and Sac State reaching record numbers of enrolled students this semester, it's apparent that our campus continues to grow. Now that we'll only have one commencement per year, students who do manage to stick around will have to fight even harder to get tickets for their friends and family to witness one of life's greatest milestones.

It's important that we remember commencement ceremonies are more than just walking across a stage and receiving a piece of paper from the president of the University. It's a symbol that represents not only the achievements of the individual, but the progress of our society as a whole. It wasn't very long ago that certain people wouldn't have even been able to attend a university, let alone receive a degree in a grand ceremony.

It seems that, once again, students received the short end of the stick with our campus's latest decision. We shouldn't have to bear the brunt of the situation in lieu of our school officials coming up with a proper solution or compromise that's fair to everyone.

## HEY SAC STATE!

***Now that you've heard our opinion, let us know what you think! Send letters to the editor to editor@statehornet.com or submit them in-person at Del Norte Hall, room 1006. Letters must be signed and may be edited for length and clarity. Use the hashtag #SacStateSays to weigh in on social media!***

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